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An Act of Parliament for the better *Paving, Lighting and Cleansing* the *Streets, Lanes, Courts, Alleys, and other open Passages*, and for removing of Nuisances as well within the several *Parishes* of the City and Liberty of *Westminster*, as of *St. Mary le Bone, St. Giles's in the Fields, St. George the Martyr, St. George Bloomsbury, that Part of St. Andrew Holbourn* which lies in the County of *Middlesex*, the several *Liber-ties* of the *Rolls and Savoy*, and that Part of the *Duchy of Lancaster* which lies in the County of *Middlesex*.

By **JOHN SPRANGER,**
Of COVENT-GARDEN.

Printed for S. BAKER, in *York-Street*,
Covent-Garden, 1754.

PROPOSAL

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TO THE
Nobility, Clergy, Gentry,
And other INHABITANTS,
OF THE
City and Liberty of WESTMINSTER,
And the several Parishes and Liberties
Within the County of Middlesex,

The following PLAN for an Act of Parliament for the better PAVING, LIGHTING, and CLEANSING their Streets and other Passages, and for other Purposes, is, with all due Respect and Deference, offer'd and submitted,

By their most Dutiful

And obedient Servant,

JOHN SPRANGER.

Southampton-street,
Covent-Garden,
Nov. 13, 1754.

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EVERY sensible Man, who lives under our most happy System of Government, must naturally be interested in all Things, that concern the Public; because he, though an Individual, sooner or later, more nearly or remotely, must be affected by every Degree of Prosperity or Adversity, that attends the Community, of which he is a Member. This it is, that has made our political Constitution the chief Object of the Admiration, and Envy of the best Politicians on the Continent: This it is, that gives us a certain Connection, a Regard to the public Good, which is unknown in most other Countries; and whilst we are duly touch'd with a Sense of our Duty to the Public, every Man in his Sphere will be ready and sollicitous to promote the common Emolument, of which he is always sure to share.

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IT is from this Attention to the public Good, to which our most excellent Constitution prompts us, that all the Blessings, which we enjoy above our Neighbours, naturally arise. Our *Magistrates* are furnished with all the Dignity and Power necessary to give Weight to their respective Offices, without Means of *tyrannizing* against which every Individual, of what Rank soever amongst us, is sufficiently guarded, by having his Rights and Liberties, civil and religious, secured within Fences, stronger than Walls of Brass, *the Laws* of his Country, in which the Meanest has a Property, unalienable.

BUT whilst the Wisdom and Virtue of our *Ancestors* have thus handed down to us many invaluable Privileges and happily provided for us, some of the most *essential* Comforts and Conveniences, that civil Society can wish or enjoy, yet, from the necessary Vicissitudes of Men, and Things in general, various Wants must from Time to Time arise, which can only be obviated,

P R E F A C E.

ted, or provided against, by the Wisdom of the *present Age*.

It is our peculiar Felicity to live in an *Age*, in which the Ears of the *King and Parliament* are open to all the Petitions and Remonstrances of the *People*, it must therefore be our own Faults, if any Thing be wanting to compleat the public Weal.

ENCOURAGED by the generous Reception my Endeavours for the common Good of my fellow Subjects within the City and Liberty of *Westminster* have already met at the Hands of the Nobility, Gentry and other Inhabitants, I have been induced to cast my Eye upon another Matter, wherein our present political OEconomy seems defective; and in Order to effect the desired Reformation, I thus beg Leave to introduce it to the Public in general. To save the Legislature trouble, I have reduced it, as near as I recently could, to the Form of a Bill; and for the Satisfaction of all those, who are immediately concerned, I now make it *Public*, that every One may

P R E F A C E.

may make such Objections, or offer such Amendments, as Reason and good Policy shall direct.

IN all well-governed Countries, the first Care of the Governors hath been to make the Intercourse of the Inhabitants, as well as of Foreigners, sojourning in the Country, safe, easy and commodious, by open, free and regular *Highways*. This is more especially incumbent on *Trading Nations*, as, without a free and safe Intercourse between Place and Place by Land as well as by Water, *Trade* cannot subsist, much less flourish.

OF the common *Highways* of this Country, the Wisdom of the Legislature hath already taken Care: But the Difficulty attending the Means for making the *Passages* through our *Streets* and *Lanes* safe, easy and commodious, has hitherto hindered our having any effectual Provision against broken or irregular Pavements, or against the Foulness and Darkeness of our Streets, which, with other Nu-

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P R E F A C E.

stances, render them scarcely passable in Carriages with Safety.

THERE is no Man can be supposed ignorant of the Utility, or a Stranger to the Necessity, as well as the Difficulty of keeping the Streets, Lanes, Courts and Alleys of a great, populous, and trading City, equally and regularly Paved, free from Filth and other Nuisances, that annoy the Passengers, whether on Foot, or in Carriages, of lighting them properly by Night, and directing Strangers more readily in their Way. The frequent and melancholy Distresses and Disasters, caused by the Want of these Conveniencies, are so obvious, as to leave no Room to expatiate further upon the Subject. Let any Man but reflect, what fatal Mischiefs have daily happened to Men and Cattle in our Streets, and think, to what dismal Accidents they are still Exposed, by rough, unequal or broken Pavements; especially when these are so covered with Filth, as to make them scarcely visible to the most cautious Passenger by Day, and much

P R E F A C E.

less so by Night; Add to this, that a Stranger, for want of the Names of Streets and Parishes being properly and visibly set up, is often at a Loss for the very Street in which he stands. Whereas, were but the Names of Streets cut on white Stones, the Letters blacken'd, and set up at every Corner, the greatest Strangers might, with the Assistance of a small pocket Map, find his Way into any Part of these contiguous Cities and their extended Liberties, without being at the Pain and Trouble of enquiring his Way of a Populace, not the most remarkable for their Politeness to Strangers, or such as do not speak their Language in the native Accent.

BUT, bad as it is to struggle with unequal, rough, and broken Pavements, and difficult as it is for a Stranger to find his Way or know where he is, when distant from his Dwelling, in any Part of this vast Town; yet these are by no Means to be compared to the Dangers to which the Public is, and would still be exposed,

P R E F A C E.

posed, even though these great Inconveniences were removed, for the Want of having the Streets duly lighted and effectually cleaned.

STREETS can never be laid out in such a Manner, as to make them safe for Passengers by Night, without being well lighted. Nor should we have Reason to fear the Number of Ruffians, that infest our Streets, were they so lighted, that such Villains could not hope, or even expect, to pass unobserved. The Rarity of Robberies within the City of *London*, is some Proof of the Truth of this Assertion. The wise Governors of that City (amongst numberless other Advantages) reap this Fruit of having their Streets equally, and regularly, lighted in Winter and Summer, from Sun-set to Sun-rise, that they are very rarely infested with Robbers; whilst we of *Westminster*, and the adjacent Parishes within the County of *Middlesex*, are exposed, every Night we pass through our Streets, to frequent Insults, Assaults, and Robberies.

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P R E F A C E.

THEN supposing the Quantity of Filth, in our Streets so great, that Man and Beast, in some Places, can hardly wade through it ; I say, suppose this Filth gave no other Annoyance, than an Obstruction to Passengers, who can be so blind as not to see the Necessity, Who so perverse as not to encourage all probable Means of removing it ? But this is not the greatest Evil we are to dread from this Quarter. The *Air* of great and populous Cities must, at best, be bad, and nothing renders it more unsafe and destructive, than suffering putrid Bodies of any Kind to lie in it. Travelers and Physicians inform us, that for want of Cleanliness, some great Cities in the Eastern World are visited periodically with the Plague, and various other malignant and pestilential Distempers : And surely we cannot be too careful in providing for our own Health, to which nothing is more conducive, than *wholesome Air*.

THE manifold Evils, to which we are exposed from these Defects in our political

P R E F A C E.

political Oeconomy, notwithstanding the vast Sums of Money expended yearly for these Purposes, without any visible Signs of Amendment, have long engaged my Attention. I have observed, that the Provisions made by Law for any of these Inconveniences, as they now stand, are insufficient. I have duly weighed all the Difficulties that oppose themselves to Schemes for Redress, and have, I think, at length hit upon an Expedient, which I hope, with the Assistance and Approbation of the Nobility, Gentry, and others, and the Sanction of the Legislature, will be carried into Execution, and serve all the Purposes of the Public.

NEITHER the Constitution of the City and Liberty of *Westminster*, nor the adjacent Parishes in the County of *Middlesex*, are furnished like the City of *London* with proper Jurisdiction, with Magistrates and other Officers, self-authorized and empowered to do such Things as are found necessary and expedient for the Good of

P R E F A C E.

of Society : And therefore, until there is a Commission established by Law, vesting a Superintendency in some Persons, authorizing them to make suitable By Laws, to raise and apply Money in an equal, fair, and just Manner, *and* empowering them to punish their Officers and others, and to hear and determine all Complaints and Offences in a plain, short, and summary Way, we cannot reasonably expect a Reformation of these Grievances.—This is, in a great Measure, the Ground-work, upon which the Superstructure of my Plan is raised, with this Distinction, that I have collected such Parts of the Laws now in being, and disposed of, and methodized them in a familiar Manner, as will best serve the Purpose of the general Design.

I HERE take Occasion of acknowledging my Obligations to such of the Nobility, Gentry, and others, as have already honoured my Plan with their Countenance and Approbation. It was *their* Approbation
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P R E F A C E.

amp'd a Credit upon my Design, and encouraged me to publish it: In consequence of which, I now crave the Assistance of every sensible and public spirited Inhabitant, in the Prosecution of it, as it can hardly be supposed, that one Man alone should be capable of compleating so extensive a Scheme.

ALL that I need further to offer in favour of the Project is this, that it is proposed with all due Deference, Respect, and Submission to the Opinion and Judgment, as well as Tenderness to the Rights and Properties of those Subjects, who are more immediately interested, or are to contribute to the Expence. No Body surely will complain of being taxed, and paying for a manifestly good and necessary Work; nor can we so little bear the Burden of such Tax, or the Abuse of Trust or Power in any Hands, as in those of Men, chosen and entrusted by ourselves.

If a Scheme that is plain, simple, and intelligible, easy to be carried in-
to

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to Execution, not unequal nor burdensome to Individuals, nor having the least Shadow of private Interest connected with it, can carry any Degree of Weight or Influence, I flatter myself, that this will meet with a favourable Reception; and as my sole Motive is the Service of the Public, I shall esteem their Acceptance and Approbation, an ample Reward for my Pains in projecting it.

THIS, at least, I can with Justice add, that I mean well. Such as it is, the Public is welcome to it, and I have the Satisfaction to believe, that every Design, which is decently offered for the Good of the Public, will be candidly received, and accurately consider'd by at least the sensible and reasonable Part of the People, abstractedly from any private Motives, Interests, or Prejudices.

—*Si quid novisti, rectius istis
Candidus imperti, si non his utere
mecum.*

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For an Act of Parliament, for the better Paving, Cleansing and Lighting the Streets, &c.

First, **T**HAT a certain Number of Inhabitants shall be nominated by Parliament, as Governors or Commissioners of each Parish to put the Act in Execution, viz. In the Parish of *St. Margaret*, thirty. In the Parish of *St. John the Evangelist*, twenty. In the Parish of *St. James*, forty. In the Parish of *St. Martin in the Fields*, forty; and so on, in other Parishes; the Numbers to be proportionable to the different Sizes of the Parishes, who shall continue Commissioners to act in the Trust from the twenty-fifth of March, 1755, to the *Wednesday after Easter Week* in the Year 1756.

B

THAT

Divisions
of Parishes,

THAT the Churchwardens of each Parish shall, within fourteen Days after the said twenty-fifth Day of *March* 1755, give Notice to the Commissioners to attend in their respective Vestry-Rooms, or such other Places as shall be thought most convenient, and that such of the said Commissioners as shall attend, or any five of them, together with the said Churchwardens *, shall divide their respective Parishes into two or more Wards or Districts, and by Warrant under their Hands and Seals appoint one or more creditable Householders within each Ward or District, as Surveyors of the Streets and Lights for one Year, who shall take that Office and Duty upon them, under the Penalty of

and Elections
of Surveyors.

Notice to
be given to
the Inhabi-
tants for a
general Re-
pair of Pave-
ments.

THAT the Churchwardens of each Parish shall cause Notice to be publish'd on the second *Sunday* in *April* 1755, in their respective Parish Churches immediately after Divine Service in the Forenoon, and also another Notice to be fix'd on the Church Doors for every Occupier of a House, and every Proprietor or Landlord of an untenanted House, or a House let in Tenements or Apartments in every Street, Lane, Court, Alley or other public or open Place, to put the Pavement before the Fronts of their Houses, as far as the Denter Stones or middle of the
same

* It is thought necessary, that the Commissioners should have the Assistance of the Churchwardens, as they, by making parochial Rates and other Things in the Course of their Duty, are most likely to be acquainted with the Parishioners, especially such as are best qualified to take the Office of Supervisor upon them.

time Street, &c. in good Repair within
from such Notice ;†
and in Case the same shall not be repair'd
within that Time, the Commissioners may
order the same to be paved and repaired, and
recover the Charges and Expences thereof,
from the Person or Persons so neglecting in
Manner hereafter-mention'd.

THAT in Order to ascertain the Manner The man-
ner of Paving
of paving the Streets, Lanes, Courts, Alleys,
and other Passages ; and to the End that
no Doubts may arise in that Respect, the
same shall be paved in Manner following, viz.
In all public Streets, Lanes, &c. where Car-
riages pass, with broad Purbeck Stone Paving,
or with Purbeck Squares, in the foot Way,
between the Houses and the Posts; and with
good Pebbles, laid on a solid substantial Foun-
dation and cover'd with Thames Ballast, or
Gravelly Sand, between the Posts and the
Denter Stones ; and in all Courts and other
Places,

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† As it will be extreamly difficult, if not altogether impossi-
ble, to ascertain a Sum of Money to be raised by a general
Rate, or indeed a Rate for each Parish, for the Matter of Pa-
ving, so it would be much more so, to preserve that Equa-
lity, which should subsist in all Rates; and therefore in this
Case, as no Rate is to be made for Paving, no Person can
complain of a Grievance or Injury, when he is compellable
to repair no more, than concerns himself, nor more than at-
present by Law he is obliged. Besides, those Persons, who
have been already at great Expence in paving before their
own Houses substantially, will, with great Reason, think it
a Hardship to pay to a Rate, which is to be applied to a par-
ticular Purpose, from which they cannot reap the least Benefit
for several Years.

Places, where Carriages do not or cannot pass, with broad Purbeck Paving, or Purbeck Squares. ‡

Duty of Surveyors with Respect to the Pavements.

THAT the Surveyors shall once at least in every Week after the general Repair, walk over their respective Wards and Divisions; and view, inspect and examine the State and Condition of the Pavements, and where they shall see any Defects or Unevenness therein, they shall from Time to Time give Notice to the Occupier or Landlord for the immediate Repair thereof, which if he shall neglect to do by a Time to be prescribed, the Surveyors shall make a Return thereof to the Commissioners at their next Meeting, who shall order the same to be repair'd, and shall be reimbursed by the Party who ought to have done the same, and if he refuse to make such Reimbursement upon Demand, the same may be levied and recover'd in Manner hereafter-mention'd.

Pavements before a Market or Square, how to be Repaired.

THAT the Pavements before a Market Square or any other Place where no dwelling Houses stand or are erected, shall be repair'd from Time to Time by the Renter or Renters, Proprietor or Proprietors of such Market, Square or other open Place, or by such other Person or Persons as have usually repair'd

‡ It may be thought right, to raise the Pavements in the Middle of such Streets as are wide enough to admit of it, and let the Gutters be on each Side. If it could be added, that the Posts should be taken away in some Streets, and the Purbeck Pavement raised as it is at *Northumberland-house*, it would be an additional Ornament and Beauty.

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PROVIDED also that where any Houses shall be untenanted, and the Right or Property of such Houses shall happen to be litigated or in Dispute at Law or otherwise, so that the real Proprietor or Owner cannot be known, and the Pavements before such Houses shall be out of Repair, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners to order the same to be repair'd by the Surveyors, and may appropriate such Part of the Rate or Assessment to be raised for cleansing and lighting the Streets, as hereafter is mention'd, as may be necessary for that Purpose; and shall at any Time afterwards recover, in Manner hereafter mention'd, such Money so expended, from the Persons in whose Favour the Right of such Houses

Houses shall be determined, or from the Occupiers of such Houses, and in Case the Occupiers shall pay the same, they may be at Liberty to deduct what they shall so pay out of their Rents.

PROVIDED also that nothing herein shall extend to contradict or vacate any Contract, Agreement, Lease, or Covenant, which shall subsist between Landlord and Tenant touching the Pavement, but that all such Tenants or Lessees who, by such Contract, Agreement, &c. are obliged to repair, shall perform their Covenants in that Respect, and the Landlord shall have Power to recover the Expences from their Tenants, notwithstanding what is before mention'd.

Pavement
broken up
by the Com-
pany or Pro-
prietors of
Waterworks.

THAT whenever the Pavement shall be broken up by the Officers of the Company or Proprietors of the several Waterworks for mending or repairing their Pipes, if the same be not properly and evenly laid down, and made good again in a substantial Manner, the Surveyors shall give Notice thereof in Writing to some of the known Officers or Servants of the Company, and if it be not alter'd and repair'd within Days after such Notice, the Surveyors shall cause it to be regularly and effectually done, and whatever Charges they shall be at on that Occasion the said Company shall be obliged to pay upon Demand, * or the same shall be levied

* OR they may agree to pay so much Money for every Yard Square, and so in Proportion.

and recovered by Distress and Sale of the Goods of the Proprietors or Company, in Manner hereafter mention'd. *

THAT in order to prevent the great Damage to Streets, &c. by Waggon, Drays, ^{Wheels of} heavy Carts, and other Carriages laden with ^{of Carts,} Brick, Stone, Sand, Timber, Coals, and ^{&c. to be} other heavy Materials, with narrow Wheels, ^{Inches in the} which tear and root up the Pavement, every ^{Fellies.} Owner of such Waggon, Cart, &c. shall cause the Fellies of the Wheels to be of the Breadth or Gage of ^{Inches from Out-} side to Outside at the least, and without Iron, on Pain of forfeiting the Sum of ^{for} every Offence, to be recover'd as hereafter is mention'd, or forfeit one of the Horses or Beasts, &c. (as in the Act for broad Wheels on Turnpike Roads. †

C L E A N S I N G.

THAT from and after the ^{Day of} 1755, Household,ers, Inhabitants ^{Streets to} and Occupiers shall cause the Streets before ^{be swept} their Houses to be swept twice in every ^{twice a} Week, to the End that the Surveyors, Raters or other Officers for that Purpose appointed may carry away the Dirt.

THAT

* This Clause will speak its own Necessity, as there have been various Complaints of the Officers of the several Water-works breaking up good Pavements to mend their Pipes and covering the Ground and laying down the Pavement in so bad a Manner, that the first Carriage has torn it up.

† It is to be wish'd that some Means could be found out for confining the heavy Waggon to the Out-skirts of the town, and that the Goods might be convey'd from thence to the Proprietors in lighter Carriages.

No Spouts THAT no Person shall suffer their Water
from Houses, Spouts to project from their Houses into the
nor Dirt to public Streets, nor throw, nor lay, nor cause,
be laid in the Streets, nor suffer to be laid any Dirt, Filth, Rubbish,
Streets. Ashes, or other Annoyance in any Part of the
 public Streets, &c. or against any House,
 Rails, Wall, or other Building, on pain of
 forfeiting for each Offence, but the
 same shall be kept in the Houses or Yards,
 until the Raker or other Officer shall go a-
 bout to carry it away.

Dirt, &c. THAT the Surveyors or Rakers shall twice
carried a- at least in every Week go through the sever-
way twice in al Wards of their respective Parishes, and
a Week. give Notice to the Inhabitants by ringing of
 a Bell or otherwise, to bring out their Dirt,
 &c. and they shall immediately carry it away
 on pain of forfeiting

Power of THAT the Surveyors, with the Consent of
contracting the Commissioners, or any five of them at
with Rakers. any one of their Meetings, shall have Power
 to contract with one or more Person or Per-
 sons, for cleansing the Streets, &c. in each
 respective Parish, in such Manner as they, in
 their Discretion, shall think fit; and to pay
 them such annual or other Sum or Sums for
 the same, as they shall so contract for, or agree
 to pay, out of the Rate or Assessment to be
 made and collected by virtue of this Act.

Returns of THAT the Surveyors shall at every month-
Nuisances to ly Meeting of the Commissioners, make
be made to Return of the Names of such Persons
the Commis- shall lay or suffer to be laid any Rubbish
sioners. Dirt

Dirt, Soil, Ashes, or other Annoyance before any House, Wall, &c. or shall suffer their Water-spouts to project from their Houses, as aforesaid, to the Intent that the Commissioners may inflict such Penalty as such Offenders shall incur by this Act for the said Offences.

L I G H T I N G.

THAT the said Commissioners shall, with-
in one Month after the Commencement of the Act, measure and mark out, at equal Distances, throughout their respective Parishes, the Places, which shall be thought most fit and expedient, for the erecting of Lamps or Lights, and shall cause globular Lamps to be erected on wooden Pedestals of Feet in Heighth, even with the Posts of the Streets, (where the Breadth of the Streets will admit of it) or else upon the Walls of the several Houses, within the Distance of Feet from each other; and be so situated or placed, that the Lamps on one Side shall stand opposite to the center of the Vacancies of the other; and Surveyors, with the Consent of the Commissioners, shall be empowered to contract and agree with proper Persons, for lighting the same, and to pay to such Persons, out of the Monies to be raised and collected by Virtue of the Assessment hereafter mention'd, all such Money

Lamps to be erected at equal Distances.
Power of contracting with Lamp-lighters.

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ney, as they shall so contract for, and agree to pay.

Times of
lighting.

THAT the said Lamps shall be lighted throughout the Year at Sun-setting, and continue burning until Sun-rising. And the Lamp-lighters shall enter into an Agreement with the Surveyors, and subject themselves to certain Penalties, for not performing their Contracts.

Duty of
Bedels and
Watchmen
with respect
to the Lights.

THAT the Bedels and Watchmen of every Parish upon going their Rounds, shall every Night take a View of the Lamps, and shall every Morning make a Return to the Surveyors, of all Neglects in the Lamp-lighters, and of the Number of Lights, which shall happen to be out, or extinguished before the due Time.

And of the
Surveyors.

THAT the Surveyors shall certify all such Neglects or Omissions to the Commissioners, at their next Meeting, who, in their Discretion, shall inflict, levy, or mitigate such Penalties as the said Lamp-lighters shall incur, or be subject and liable to by their contract, one half of which Penalties shall be paid to the Bedels or Watchmen, or such other Persons as shall give Information, and the other Half shall be applied in Aid of the Rate, to be made for the Purpose aforesaid.

Penalty on
Persons breaking the
Lamps, &c.

THAT in order to preserve the Lamps, &c. if any Person shall wilfully break the Lamps, or bruise, deface, cut, or break the Pedestals, or Lamp-irons, he shall forfeit a Sum not exceeding for every Offence

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be recovered as hereafter is mention'd : And in default of Payment, he shall be committed to some public Goal for the Space of Days. *

THAT on the first *Wednesday* in every Month between the Hours of eleven and two, or oftener, if necessary, the Commissioners shall meet in the Vestry-rooms, or some other convenient Places, in their respective Parishes. That the Surveyors shall attend at every such meeting, and make a Return to the Commissioners of all Neglects or Defects in the Pavements, as also of all or any Breach of Agreement in the Rakers or Lamp-lighters ; and the Commissioners shall thereupon summon the Parties offending before them, at a certain Day to be appointed, and make such Orders therein, as to them shall seem most just, provided such Orders do not clash with, contradict, or vacate any of the Powers or Directions of the intended Act.

Commis-
sioners to
meet month-
ly, or oftener.

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THAT

* It is submitted to the Opinion of the Inhabitants whether a Clause might not here be properly added, that a Pipe, laid into the Main Pipe of one of the Waterworks, shall be carried to and fix'd in the Inside of one or more of the Pedestals in each Street, to be always ready for Use, in case of Fire, or indeed for the Purpose of watering the Streets in Summer-time.

It is also submitted to the Public, how properly the following Clause, or one to that Effect, may be inserted, viz. That the Surveyors shall, within cause a square white Stone to be fixed on the Corner House of each Street, with fair black and visible Letters inscribed, distinguishing the Name of such Street, at the Heighth or Distance of Feet at least from the Ground.

Rate to be
made for
lighting,
cleansing, &c

THAT in order to defray the necessary Charges and Expences of cleansing and lighting the Streets, and other Passages, and erecting, repairing, and continuing Pedestals as aforesaid, and other Charges necessarily attending the same and incident thereunto, * a certain Sum shall be raised by Way of Rate. For which Purpose the said Commissioners or any five of them, assisted by the Churchwardens, shall, on the first *Wednesday* in *May* 1755 at the monthly Meeting, and on the same Day in every Year afterwards, make a Pound Rate, or Assessment upon all Inhabitants, Housholders, Occupiers, Renters of Markets, &c. which Rate or Assessment being confirm'd under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners, or any of them, shall be collected weekly, monthly, or quarterly by the said Surveyors in their respective Wards or Divisions, who shall be allowed † Pence in the Pound for their Trouble in such Collection.

No Money paid by Surveyors without express Authority from the Commissioners.

THAT the said Surveyors shall pay no Money without an express Warrant or Authority in Writing from the Commissioners, or any five of them, made at one of their Meetings.

* THE Reason for confining the Rate to cleansing and lighting the Streets is this, because the Inhabitants may easily ascertain how much Money will be necessary to be raised annually for these Purposes, in their respective Parishes, and may make Rates accordingly.

† TWOPENCE in the Pound may be thought a sufficient Allowance.

Meetings : And if the Disbursements of the Surveyors shall happen to exceed the Monies assess'd and collected, the Commissioners shall be empower'd to make a Re-assessment, and raise a sufficient Sum to reimburse them.

THAT in Case of Non-payment, Neglect, or refusal to pay the Rate within ^{On Non-payment of Rate, Warrants of Distress to issue.} Days after Demand personally made, or Notice in Writing left at the Houses of such Persons so neglecting or refusing, the Surveyors, assisted by the Constable (who shall be obliged to attend and assist) by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of the Commissioners, or any five of them, shall levy the Same on their Goods, together with the Costs and Charges of the Distress, by Sale, &c. rendering to the Party the Overplus, if any ; or may recover the same by Action or Summons in any superior or inferior Court whatsoever. —And if the Party assess'd, shall reside in, or remove into any other Parish or Place whatsoever, the said Warrant shall be in Force, and be executed in such other Parish or Place. ^{And be executed out of the Parish.}

THAT if the Churchwardens shall refuse ^{Church Wardens} to assist in making such Rate, they shall be neglecting to assist in making Rate, to be fined. liable to the Penalty of and the Commissioners or any five of them shall have Power of making the same.

PROVIDED that no Person by paying to this Rate shall gain a Settlement in any ^{No settlement gained by paying Rate.} Parish.

THAT

Two ge-
neral annual
Meetings of
the Commis-
sioners.

roll of
to surveyors
- 17 -
and
- 18 -
to surveyors
- 19 -

To inspect
and allow
the Survey-
ors Accounts
&c.

Allowance
to Surveyors,
if they do
their Duty.

Surveyors
fined for
Neglect of
their Duty.

THAT all the Commissioners of the respective Parishes included in the Act, shall have two general Meetings in every Year in their respective Vestry-rooms, or such other Places as shall be thought most convenient, viz. on the *Wednesday* after the second *Sundays* in the Months of *April* and *November* at eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, at which Time the several Surveyors of the respective Parishes shall also attend, and bring in their Accounts of all Monies collected and paid by them in pursuance of this Act, for the Commissioners Inspection, Approbation, and Allowance; and at the last of such Meetings in each Year, viz. in the Month of *April* they shall pay the Ballance, if any, in their Hands to the succeeding Surveyors. And the Commissioners, or any five of them shall be empower'd by Warrant under their Hands and Seals to commit such Surveyors as shall refuse or neglect to account, until they have accounted.

THAT as an Encouragement to the Surveyors to do their Duty, the Commissioners shall be empower'd at each monthly Meeting, to allow each Surveyor out of the Monies collected, any Sum not exceeding * provided his Diligence and Care in the Execution of his Office, shall merit a Gratuity; but that such Surveyors as shall neglect, or

* TEN Shillings may not be thought an improper Allowance.

* TWENTY

miss in their Duty, shall forfeit a Sum not less than nor exceeding for every Offence, to be imposed at the Discretion of the said Commissioners, or any five of them, at such Meetings.

THAT out of the Monies collected by ^{Allowance of twenty Shillings} each Rate, the Sum of * shall be month-^{monthly to such Commissioners as shall attend.}ly allowed, and paid by the Surveyors to such Commissioners, as shall attend at each monthly Meeting, which Sum of shall be equally divided amongst them, and shall be allowed in the Surveyors Accounts.

THAT all Monies disbursed by the Surveyors, with respect to the Pavements, and ^{Method of recovering Penalties.} also all Penalties and Forfeitures hereby inflicted, shall be recovered by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners or any five of them, to be granted at one of their public Meetings, and in Default of such Distress, by Imprisonment for any Time not exceeding Days, and if any Persons shall think themselves aggrieved ^{Persons aggrieved may appeal.} by Reason of an Overcharge in the Rate or Assessment, or in the Manner of levying thereof, or of any Thing done in pursuance, or under Colour of the Act, they may appeal to the Commissioners at any one of their monthly Meetings, who shall be empowered to redress such Grievances, and to make

* TWENTY Shillings may be thought a sufficient Allowance.

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THAT no Person shall be capable or qualified to be, or act as a Commissioner, or exercise any of the Powers or Authorities in the Act, until he has taken the following Oath, viz.

Qualifica-
tion of Com-
missioners.

I A. B. do swear that I will truly and impartially execute the Trusts committed to me, by Virtue of an Act of Parliament, entitled, An Act, &c. that I am now seised of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, of the yearly Value of free from Incumbrances. Or, that I am worth the Sum of over and above what will pay and satisfy all my Debts. Or, that I rent a House and pay Taxes for a Year.

So help me God.

Which Oath the Commissioners are empowered to administer to each other; and it shall be subscribed and signed by the Persons taking the same.

THAT on the first *Wednesday* after *Easter* Week, in the Year 1755, and on that same Day in every subsequent Year, the Commissioners and other Inhabitants * of the respective Parishes (Notice being previously published

Yearly E-
lection of
Commis-
sioners and
Surveyors
after *Easter*,
1755.

D

* It is submitted, whether it will not be most proper to have the Commissioners elected by the Inhabitants, and not by the Vestries, as it may be more satisfactory to the Inhabitants in general, many of whom suspect Vestries of Partiality, tho' probably without just Grounds.

published in the respective Parish Churches on the preceding Sunday, for that Purpose by the Churchwardens, (who are hereby required on Pain of _____ to give such Notice) shall meet in their respective Vestry-Rooms at Eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon, and shall proceed to elect by Ballot one Half of the same Commissioners, who served the preceding Year, to continue as Commissioners for the succeeding Year, and to elect the other Half out of such Inhabitants of the same Parish as shall be qualified agreeably to the Act, to join as Commissioners for the same succeeding Year. And shall also, at the same Time, proceed to choose Surveyors for the succeeding Year, which Surveyors, so elected, shall receive their Authority by Warrant, under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners, or any five of them, and shall take the Office and Duty upon them on Pain of _____ as aforesaid.

No Surveyor to serve above two Years.

No Collector of Land-tax or parochial Officer to be elected a Surveyor.

PROVIDED that no Person shall be capable of acting as a Commissioner, or serving the Office of Surveyor for a longer Time than two Years successively, and that no Collector of the Land-tax, nor any parochial Officer, shall be elected a Surveyor during the Subsistence of such his Collectorship or Office.

PRO-

* Or they are hereby empowered to choose fit persons, or de-
+ It may be empowering
+ Parishes
+ as a Com
+ a Co

PROVIDED nevertheless, that in Case the ^{Power of} Commissioners in any one of the said Pa-^{Commissioners in one} rishes, shall neglect to attend the said ^{Parish to exe-} monthly Meetings, or shall be remiss, or ^{cute their} refuse or decline to carry the Act into Exe-^{Authority in} cution, or follow the Directions therein, ^{another, if} it shall be lawful for * the Commissioners of ^{absolutely} any other Parish, or any five of them, to ^{necessary,} meet from Time to Time in such Parish, and give such necessary Orders and Direc-
tions therein, as may the better enforce the strict Observance and Obedience of the Act. †

THAT all Actions to be brought against ^{Actions to} the Commissioners, Churchwardens, Survey-^{be brought} ors or any other Person, for any Thing done ^{in three} in Pursuance of the Act, shall be com-^{Months.} menced in three Callender Months next after the Fact committed, and the Defen-
dants may plead the general Issue, and give the special Matter in Evidence.

THAT the Act shall be deemed a public ^{Public Act.} Act, and be judicially taken Notice of by all Judges, Justices, &c.

THAT

* Or thus: It shall be lawful for the Church-wardens, and they are hereby required to call a Meeting of the Inhabitants choose fit Persons in the Room of those who are remiss or refuse, or decline, without just Cause, to act, &c.

† It may be thought proper to add a Clause in this Place, empowering any Gentleman having Property in any of the said Parishes to the Amount of per. Ann. and qualifying, as aforesaid, to attend at any monthly Meeting, and as a Commissioner, tho' not particularly nominated or elected a Commissioner at the general Meeting.

Repeal of
Act of 2d
WILLIAM
and MARY,
&c.

THAT so much of the Act of 2d. WIL-
LIAM and MARY, or any other Act
concerns the Paving, Lighting, or Clean-
sing the Streets within the City and Liberties
of *Westminster*, or any of the other ad-
jacent Parishes or Liberties, be repealed.

F I N I S.